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**DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING**

February 8, 1994

Mr. D. Wayne Hedberg
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

Dear Mr. Hedberg:

I appreciate your response to Revision 2 of the Escalante Tailings Pond Reclamation Plan. Hecla agrees to all clarifications and conditions except Item 2. The installation of the tailings cap will essentially eliminate any recharge to the tailings from precipitation. The only drainage coming from the tailings will be the contained moisture. Given the low permeability of the tailings, this flow could continue at very low rates for a number of years. The quantities of water would still be small, however. Since the tailings impoundment was constructed to be water tight, and Hecla feels that the construction was effective, the small amount of water that remains impounded within the tailings will be isolated from the environment. Hecla would offer to allow the underdrain flow to continue for two years after the impoundment cap has been installed, then permanently seal the underdrain.

In response to Item 5, Hecla intends to use a surety bond to cover the project.

Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan Wilson".

Alan Wilson
Senior Reclamation Engineer

cc: G. Wilhelm